



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHARLESTON WOMAN SENTENCED FOR TAX FRAUD

Columbia, South Carolina---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Maxine Adams, age 42, of Charleston, South Carolina, was sentenced in federal court in Charleston, South Carolina, for Tax Fraud, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 287. United States District Judge Richard Gergel of Charleston sentenced Adams to 12 months imprisonment and 3 years supervised release.

Evidence presented at the guilty plea hearing established that in 2006 through 2008, Maxine Adams filed fraudulent tax returns using the identifying information of inmates in state prison. Her husband is incarcerated, and he provided Adams with the names, birth dates, and Social Security numbers of fellow inmates. Adams created fraudulent W-2 wage and tax forms for these inmates. Using the fraudulent

W-2s, Adams filed tax returns for the inmates that claimed tax refunds. These tax returns were completely fraudulent. The inmates were not entitled to any refunds, were not aware of the fraud, and did not receive any of the refund money. In total, Adams filed 42 fraudulent tax returns and received fraudulent refunds from the IRS.

"The IRS is aggressively pursuing those who steal others' identities in order to file false returns," said Steven Miller, IRS Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement. "Our cooperative work with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Tax Division will help protect taxpayers in South Carolina from being victimized by identity theft. The IRS is taking additional steps this tax season to further prevent, detect and resolve identity theft cases as soon as possible." United States Attorney Bill Nettles added that "in an era of trillion dollar deficits, prosecuting tax fraud is an urgent priority for the Justice Department."

The case was investigated by agents of the Internal Revenue Service. Assistant United States Attorney Rhett DeHart of the Charleston office prosecuted the case.

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